

Message Text

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TAGS: US BR XM PFOR SHUM

SUBJECT: EDITORIAL SUGGESTS STIFF BRAZILIAN RESPONSE TO INTERNATIONAL

PRESSURE ON HUMAN RIGHTS

SUMMARY: IN SHARP EDITORIAL WHICH MAY WELL HAVE BEEN INSPIRED BY FOREIGN MINISTRY, IMPORTANT JORNAL DO BRASIL LAMENTED LOW PRIORITY US GIVES LA, EXPRESSED HOPE FOR CONTINUED US COOPERATION IN NUCLEAR FIELD, SAID TRANSMISSION OF "JUDGMENTS OF CERTAIN AMERICAN SENATORS" ON HUMAN RIGHTS TO OTHER COUNTRIES COULD HARM RELATIONS, AND SUGGESTED BRAZIL PREPARED TO HAVE BETTER RELATIONS WITH OTHER WESTERN COUNTRIES THAN WITH US. THE EDITORIAL CONSTITUTES A WARNING THAT, AT THE MOMENT AT LEAST, BRAZIL IS NOT PREPARED TO BE RESPONSIVE TO INTERNATIONAL PRESSURE ON HUMAN RIGHTS. END SUMMARY.

1. IN EDITORIAL TITLED, "TEST PERIOD," RIO'S IMPORTANT JORNAL DO BRASIL OCTOBER 5 BEGINS, "THE RELATIONS OF FRIENDSHIP AND INTEREST BETWEEN BRAZIL AND THE UNITED STATES HAVE BEEN STRONG ENOUGH TO PASS THROUGH THE TEST PERIOD GOING ON". EDITORIAL CITES REMARKS BY FOREIGN MINISTER SILVEIRA ON LATIN AMERICAN "FRUSTRATION AND REVOLT" AT "LACK OF CONTINUITY IN WASHINGTON'S HEMISPHERIC DIPLOMACY," AND GOES ON TO DECLARE THAT "REALLY, ONLY THE DIRECT AND PERSONAL ATTENTION" OF SECRETARY KISSINGER WILL BE
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ABLE TO FILL THE GAP. EDITORIAL ADDS THAT THE "SUCCESSIVE

POSTPONEMENTS OF KISSINGER'S TRIP TO BRAZIL SUGGEST, AS A PRELIMINARY LESSON, AVOIDING THE ANNOUNCEMENT OF DATES WHICH ARE NOT KEPT," AND CALLS IT "UNDERSTANDABLE ALTHOUGH NOT JUSTIFIABLE THAT THE CRISES OF THE MIDDLE EAST SHOULD ROB THE BEST OF THE SECSTATE'S ENERGY. UNDERSTANDING WOULD NOT HAVE THE VIRTUE OF UNDOING THE FEELING THAT LATIN AMERICA WOULD ONLY GAIN PRIORITY WHEN IT ALSO TURNED ITSELF INTO A CRISIS POINT WITH REPERCUSSIONS ON THE BALANCE OF WORLD POWER."

2. FAVORING US-BRAZILIAN RELATIONS, EDITORIAL CONTINUES, IS USG ACCEPTANCE OF BRAZILIAN NUCLEAR AGREEMENT WITH WEST GERMANY, WHICH LEAVES NO REASON FOR SUPPOSING THAT BRAZIL WILL NOT CONTINUE TO HAVE THE BENEFIT OF HARD-TO-REPLACE US COOPERATION.

3. EDITORIAL THEN TURNS TO PERCEIVED "CONFLICTS OF UNDERSTANDING" BETWEEN US EXECUTIVE AND CONGRESS, CONFLICTS WHICH "TEND TO WEAKEN US WORLD LEADERSHIP ON THE POLITICAL PLANE." NOTING THAT CONFLICTS CAN ALSO CAUSE TROUBLES IN RELATIONS, EDITORIAL DECLARES, "HOWEVER INDEPENDENT THE POWERS MAY BE IN THE US, THE EXECUTIVE WOULD STILL BE STRONG ENOUGH TO HEAD OFF INVESTIGATORY ACTIONS IN THE SENATE REGARDING OFFENSES AGAINST HUMAN RIGHTS IN THE SOVIET UNION, ON THE GROUNDS THAT SUCH INVESTIGATIONS WOULD OFFEND THE SOVEREIGNTY OF THE NUCLEAR-CONDOMINIUM PARTNER. MUCH LESS WOULD THAT SAME EXECUTIVE TRANSMIT THE JUDGMENTS OF CERTAIN AMERICAN SENATORS TO THE SOVIET UNION OR ANY OTHER COUNTRY WITHOUT CREATING A DIFFICULT SITUATION IN RELATIONS BETWEEN THE DEPARTMENT OF STATE AND THE COUNTRY CRITICIZED BY JUDGES WITHOUT MANDATE."

4. EDITORIAL CONCLUDES WITH PARAGRAPH ON BRAZIL'S IMPROVING RELATIONS WITH WESTERN EUROPE, STATING "WITHIN THE WEST, BRAZIL HAS NO AUTOMATIC ALIGNMENTS, AND THEREFORE CAN BETTER DEVELOP THE MOST PROPITIOUS FIELDS OF DIPLOMATIC ACTION."

5. COMMENT: THE EDITORIAL IS MOST NOTEWORTHY FOR ITS ADDRESS TO THE HUMAN RIGHTS ISSUE: AS FAR AS WE KNOW, THIS IS THE FIRST PUBLIC INDICATION IN SOME TIME OF AWARENESS WITHIN THE BRAZILIAN ESTABLISHMENT OF THE DANGER THAT BRAZIL CAN AGAIN COME TO OCCUPY, AS IT DID A FEW YEARS BACK, THE CENTER OF INTERNATIONAL ATTENTION TO HUMAN RIGHTS ABUSES. WE CAN TAKE SOME SATISFACTION

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IN THE DEVELOPMENT OF SUCH AN AWARENESS, BUT THE FORM WHICH IT TAKES IN THIS EDITORIAL, WHICH MAY WELL HAVE BEEN INSPIRED BY THE FOREIGN MINISTRY, IS FAR FROM CONCORTING: THE AURA OF RESENTMENT, THE IMPLICIT ASSUMPTION THAT THE US WILL BE MORE CAREFUL OF SOVIET SENSIBILITIES THAN OF OTHERS, AND THE SUGGESTION THAT BRAZIL IS PREPARED TO HAVE BETTER RELATIONS WITH OTHER WESTERN COUNTRIES THAN WITH THE US, ALL CONSTITUTE A WARNING THAT, AT THE MOMENT AT LEAST, BRAZIL IS NOT PREPARED

TO BE RESPONSIVE TO INTERNATIONAL PRESSURE ON HUMAN RIGHTS.
END COMMENT.
JOHNSON

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